



*Office of the United States Attorney  
District of Arizona*  
**José de Jesus Rivera**

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**March 16, 2000**

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### **JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AWARDS \$357,000 TO ARIZONA FOR CRIME VICTIM COMPENSATION PROGRAM**

**PHOENIX, ARIZONA** – U.S. Attorney José de Jesus Rivera announced today that the Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) is awarding \$357,000 to the State of Arizona to help support the state's crime victim compensation program. As prescribed by the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), the amount of the award is equal to approximately 40 percent of the funds that the State of Arizona paid out to compensate victims last year.

The Crime Victims Fund, which was established by VOCA and is administered by OVC, is the source of funding for these annual awards. The Fund is financed, not with tax dollars, but with fines and penalties paid by convicted federal criminals. Fines collected in one year by the U.S. Attorney's, the U.S. Courts and the Bureau of Prisons are deposited into the Fund and are available for grant awards the following year. As a result of these efforts, in Federal Fiscal Year 2000, state crime victim compensation programs will receive a total of \$81.3 million in VOCA federal victim compensation grant funds. These funds will be used to pay claims for medical costs, lost wages, mental health counseling, funeral expenses, and other costs that victims incur as a result of violent crime.

For more information about Arizona's victim compensation program, contact the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, the agency that administers the VOCA victim compensation grant. Mr. Michael D. Branham, Executive director, can be reached at 602-230-0252.

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